



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

May 2005

Dear Foster Parent:

In honor of foster parents like you who are making an incredible difference in communities all across Wisconsin, please join us as we celebrate this May as Foster Family Month. We appreciate the positive and lasting impression you have on children and families in our state and we thank you for your tireless efforts in helping children become stronger, healthier, and more successful each day.

From my own experience I know that parenting can be rewarding and challenging. We want to do our best to give you access to the tools you need to succeed and to make the most of your relationships with the children in your care. I am pleased to announce the creation of the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center, part of my *KidsFirst* Initiative. The statewide resource center will provide you with information about child development including challenging behaviors or conditions, contacts for local foster parent associations, access to training opportunities, and more. For details about the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center, please visit their web site at www.wifostercareandadoption.org or call 1-800-947-8074.

I'm also happy to inform you that I have included an increase to the foster care reimbursement rate in my 2005-2007 biennial budget proposal. While we understand that the services you provide are difficult to quantify, we believe it is vital to improve financial support to help you provide for the needs of the children in your care. We understand this is a modest increase in your current foster care reimbursement rate and in the future we hope we can do more.

We continue to need quality foster homes, like yours, especially for sibling groups, teenagers, and children with special needs. We hope that you will share your experiences with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to consider becoming foster parents. For more information about foster care, please visit the Department of Health and Family Services foster care web site at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/children/foster>.

I admire the strong commitment you have made and I want to personally thank you for the support and hope you bring to foster children, their families, and our communities. I am proud of the work you do everyday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Jim Doyle in black ink.

Jim Doyle
Governor